

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /075 W

----- 074074

R 111510Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2127

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 1759

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, RH, ZA

SUBJECT: ANC CONTROVERSEY: RETURN OF BISHOP MUZOREWA

REF: LUSAKA 1710

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. IN SEPT 8 PRESS STATEMENT NDABANINGI SITHOLE CRITICIZED CALL BY SALISBURY-BASED MEMBERS OF AFRICAN NATIONAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR RETURN OF BISHOP MUZOREWA TO RHODESIA AND CONVENTION OF ANC CONGRESS SEPTEMBER 27. SITHOLE, IN SCARCELY VEILED REFERENCE TO JOSHUA NKOMO, CASTIGATED THOSE IN ANC WHO HAD MADE "SECRET DEALS" WITH SMITH GOVERNMENT AND WERE NOW SO COMMITTED TO SMITH THEY NO LONGER ABLE TO FOLLOW ANC POLICIES. SITHOLE ADDED THAT ANC MEMBERS IN SALISBURY FAILED APPRECIATE THAT IT WAS EXTERNAL WING, NOW REPRESENTED BY ZIMBABWE LIBERATION COUNCIL, WHICH HAD SECURED RELEASE OF SO MANY NATIONALIST LEADERS FROM SMITH'S JAILS AND WAS "GIVING TEETH" TO CURRENT  
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NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN ANC AND SMITH.

2. RETURN OF BISHOP MUZOREWA FROM EUROPE ON SEPT 9 HAS BROUGHT LULL, PROBABLY ONLY TEMPORARY, IN EXCHANGE OF CHARGES AND COUNTER-CHARGES BETWEEN ZANU/FROLIZI AND ZAPU FACTIONS OF ANC. ON ARRIVAL IN LUSAKA MUZOREWA DECLINED MAKE STATEMENT ON DISPUTE, SAYING HE WISHED FIRST MAKE THOROUGH STUDY OF MATTER. MUZOREWA ALSO REFUSED CONFIRM WHETHER HE WILL RETURN TO SALISBURY TO PARTICIPATE IN SEPT. 21 NATIONAL EXECUTIVE MEETING CALLED EARLIER BY ANC VICE PRES GABELLAH. GABELLAH HAD SAID ON TUESDAY THAT MUZOREWA WOULD DEFINITELY PRESIDE. END UNCLASSIFIED

3. EARLIER WE WERE INFORMED THAT UPON HIS RETURN TO LUSAKA MUZOREWA HAD MADE FIRM DECISION TO CALL PRESS CONFERENCE AT WHICH HE WOULD ANNOUNCE SUSPENSION OF JOSHUA NKOMO FROM ANC. REASON IS NKOMO'S UNAUTHORIZED CONVOCATION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING IN SALISBURY (REFTEL). PRESS (INCLUDING ACTING PAO) WAS INVITED MEET WITH MUZOREWA AT HIS QUARTERS IN ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT GUEST HOUSE MORNING SEPT. 11. AFTER ASSEMBLING, HOWEVER, AND WAITING FIFTEEN MINUTES PRESS INFORMED CONFERENCE POSTPONED INDEFINITELY. WE HAVE GOOD REASON SUSPECT REASON FOR POSTPONEMENT WAS LAST MINUTE INTERVENTION BY STATE HOUSE WHICH ONLY BELATEDLY LEARNED OF PROPOSED MUZOREWA PRESS CONFERENCE.

4. WHETHER OR NOT STATE HOUSE OFFICIALS AWARE OF BISHOP'S REPORTED INTENTION SUSPEND NKOMO FROM ANC, THEY MAY WELL HAVE FEARED ISSUANCE BY BISHOP AT THIS TIME OF ANY STATEMENT ON SUBJECT WITHOUT PRIOR STATE HOUSE COORDINATION WOULD ONLY ADD FURTHER FUEL TO ALREADY DANGEROUSLY BLAZING CONTROVERSEY.  
WILKOWSKI

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